

SENATE RESOLUTION 186

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to designate the week of May 1-7, 2022, as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, many people with serious chronic mental illness, such as schizophrenia and other schizoaffective disorders, bipolar disorder, or severe depression, require treatment with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents (DRBAs), including antipsychotics; and

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can be very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people it can also lead to tardive dyskinesia (TD); and

WHEREAS, many people who have gastrointestinal disorders, including gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting also require treatment with DRBAs; and

WHEREAS, treatment of gastrointestinal disorders with DRBAs can be very helpful, but for many patients it can lead to tardive dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia is a movement disorder that is characterized by random, involuntary, and uncontrolled movements of different muscles in the face, trunk, and extremities; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, people may experience movement of the arms, legs, fingers, and toes; TD also may affect the tongue, lips, and jaw; other individuals may show a variety of symptoms, including swaying movements of the trunk or hips, and TD may impact the muscles associated with walking, speech, eating, and breathing; and

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia can develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking DRBAs and even after they have discontinued use of those medications. Not everyone who takes a DRBA develops TD, but if it develops, it is often permanent; and

WHEREAS, common risk factors for tardive dyskinesia include advanced age and alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders. Postmenopausal women and people with a mood disorder are also at higher risk of developing tardive dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, a person is at a higher risk for TD after taking DRBAs for three months or longer, but the longer an individual is on these medications, the higher the risk of developing tardive dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, studies suggest that overall risk of developing tardive dyskinesia is between ten and thirty percent; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 600,000 Americans suffer from tardive dyskinesia. According to the National Alliance for Mental Illness, one in every four patients receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience tardive dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, years of difficult and challenging research have resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs, with two new treatments for tardive dyskinesia having been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia is often unrecognized, and patients suffering from the illness are commonly misdiagnosed. Regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBA medications is recommended by the American Psychiatric Association (APA); and

WHEREAS, patients suffering from tardive dyskinesia often suffer embarrassment due to abnormal and involuntary movements, which leads them to withdraw from society and increasingly isolate themselves as the disease progresses; and

WHEREAS, caregivers of patients with tardive dyskinesia face many challenges and are often responsible for the overall care of the TD patient; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee can raise awareness of tardive dyskinesia in the public and the medical community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby designate the week of May 1-7, 2022, as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Tennessee and encourage every individual to become better informed about and aware of tardive dyskinesia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.